"Amazing Spider-Man *continues its streak of excellence.*"
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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JOHN ROMITA JR.
PATRICK GLEASON
NICK DRAGOTTA
MARCIO MENYZ

HOBGOBLIN

MARVEL

VOLUME 03

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Hobgoblin

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ISSUES #9-13

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ISSUE #14

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WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

VOLUME 03

Six months ago, PETER PARKER did something and now has to live with the consequences. His debts have racked up, he's burned bridges with most of his friends, and MJ has moved on from him.

After tangling with TOMBSTONE and vying with VULTURE, Peter's costume was worse for wear. It just so happens that NORMAN OSBORN had a new and improved spidey-suit, complete with its own spider-drone. All the more interesting, it seems Peter had a hand in developing it in those mysterious six months.

With his new costume and a new job at Oscorp, Peter's life finally seemed back on track.

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SPIDER-MAN

Patrick Gleason & Marcio Menyz
#9 VARIANT

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#9 COMMUNITY VARIANT

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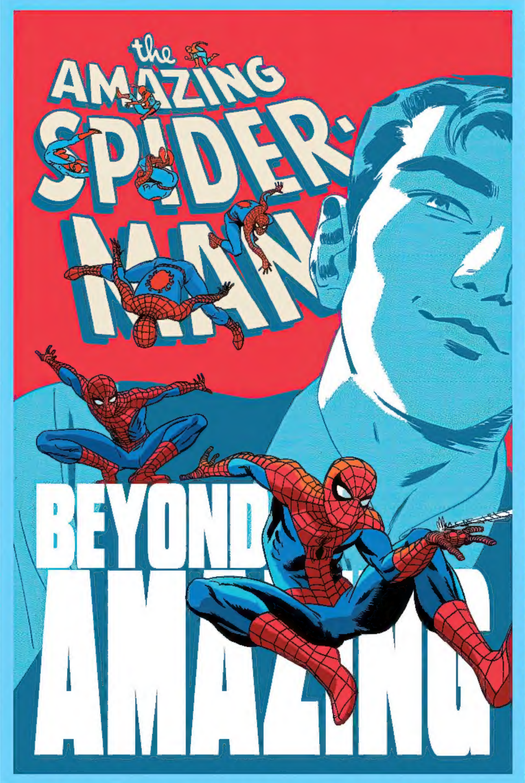
#9 VARIANT



Marcos Martin
#10 BEYOND AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VARIANT

"And so
made hi
an *input*

DO
UNDERS

PETER.
A HAR
TO S

UH, SHOULD I BE AS SCARED AS I AM?

MORE, BUB.

originally called *the Living Brain.**

JRJR
S.Hanna
MENDO

NO, YOU'RE NOT MISTAKEN. THIS IS THE ***HELLFIRE GALA.*** THE BIGGEST EVENT FOR THE MUTANT NATION OF KRAKOA AND THE HOTTEST TICKET IN THE WORLD.

YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHAT YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN IS DOING HERE...

THAT'S A FUNNY STORY.

YOU GOT MY INVITATION, *HEH HEH.*

OR FUNNY TO ***SOME PEOPLE,*** AT LEAST.

I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF YOU'D PUT THAT THING ON.

JOKE'S ON YOU--I LOOK AWESOME...

...AND YOU'RE WEARING A ***BOLO TIE.***

SO?

OKAY, YEAH, THE INVITE WAS A GOOD-NATURED (I THINK?) PRANK. BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT I HAD A PERSONAL REASON TO BE THERE...

*DO YOU **ALWAYS** TALK TO YOURSELF THIS MUCH? WE'VE GOTTA GET TO THE GOOD STUFF-- I'M GONNA FAST-FORWARD...*

...TO YOUR FIRST AWKWARD INTERACTION WITH THE **HOSTAGE**, MARY JANE WATSON.

HEY. FANCY MEETING YOU HERE, MJ.

MY AUNT IS ON THE KRAKOAN MEDICINES.

...OOOOKAY.

YOU SAY YOU KNEW SHE WAS IN DANGER? HOW--? DOESN'T MATTER, I'LL KEEP LOOKING.

LET'S SCRUB PAST THIS AWKWARD INTERACTION WITH SCOTT...

AHOY, MATEY.

WHAT?

OH. I WAS JUST--

YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE A PIRATE.

LET'S GO, HONEY.

THE AWKWARD INTERACTION WITH MR. SINISTER...

THOSE WEBS, DO THEY COME STRAIGHT OUT OF YOUR--

NO.

...

DO YOU **WANT** THEM TO?

WE'RE DONE HERE.

A LOT OF AWKWARD INTERACTIONS TO GET PAST.

WHEN DO THE OTHER **BOSSTONES** GET HERE?

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

OKAY, HERE WE ARE.

I'M NOT SURE IF IT WAS A NERVOUS TIC OR NOT, BUT SHE WAS TAPPING OUT S-O-S IN MORSE CODE ON HER GLASS.

DOUG TOLD YOU MARY JANE WAS ASKING FOR HELP...

...AND WHEN YOU SAW PROTEUS SCREAMING AT HER, YOU "HELPED."

UNAWARE THAT **MOIRA MACTAGGERT** HAD SMUGGLED HERSELF INTO THE GALA TO **THREATEN** PROTEUS, TRANSFERRING HER DIGITAL MIND TO MARY JANE'S "NECKLACE."

THE NECKLACE WOULD STRANGLE HER IF YOU FOLLOWED HER.

THIS ALLOWED MOIRA TO DISAPPEAR THROUGH A GATE TO PARIS...

..WHILE WOLVERINE CONVINCED YOU TO REGROUP BEFORE YOU GAVE CHASE...

...BY SENDING **GREYCROW** TO KEEP TRACK OF HER WHEREABOUTS.

OKAY, ENOUGH! YES! THAT ALL HAPPENED. YOU'RE CAUGHT UP.

ARE WE DONE WITH THIS WASTE OF TIME?!

I TAKE THE GALA'S SECURITY SERIOUSLY. IT'S MY PREROGATIVE TO TAKE A *PSYCHIC STATEMENT.*

YOU BETTER NOT HAVE TAKEN A PEEK AT MY *SECRET IDENTITY.*

GET OVER YOURSELF.

AND IT'S MY PREROGATIVE TO SAVE MARY JANE.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE *TRYING* TO DO.

GET DRESSED. TIME TO MAKE SOME TROUBLE.

WOLVERINE? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!

MAKING SURE WE HAVE A PLAN TO GET WATSON BACK UNHARMED.

THIS DISK CREATES A SPECIALIZED E.M.P. TO SCRAMBLE MOIRA'S SIGNALS AND GET MARY JANE OUT SAFE.

OH. OKAY. GOOD IDEA.

CARRY ON.

PARIS, FRANCE.

IT'S DONE. TAKE ME TO MY BODY. NOW.

YES, MOIRA. RIGHT THIS WAY.

SMILEYS! ANYTHING COMES THROUGH THAT GATE, YOU ROAST IT.

LET'S GO!!!

HNNNG.

MOIRA? IS SOMETHING WRONG? WE NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY.

WHY AREN'T WE WALKING, MS. WATSON?

I--I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED. LET ME GO.

MS. WATSON, THAT IS MY HAND AROUND YOUR NECK, AND FOR MY GAMBIT TO WORK, I HAD TO STORE MY *CONSCIOUSNESS* WITHIN IT.

I DON'T TRUST ANY OF THESE MEN TO RETURN IT TO MY BODY. SO WHILE I STILL HAVE USE FOR YOU...

...YOU WILL DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!

--ACK!

OKAY... *OKAY!*

I'M GOING.

MOVE OUT!

KRAKOA.

WE'RE GONNA HAVE A *TELEPORTER* ZAP US TO THE GATE MARY JANE WENT THROUGH?

EVEN THOUGH THE GATE ITSELF WOULD TAKE US RIGHT THERE?

THAT'S RIGHT.

TELEPORTER HAS A NAME, BY THE WAY.

YEAH, I KNOW, BUT WATCH THIS...

HI, I'M SPIDER-MAN. NICE TO MEET YOU...

NOTHING.

NAME'S *GATEWAY*, AND HIS WORK SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

MOIRA KNOWS WE'RE COMING. SHE'LL HAVE KILLERS WAITING FOR US ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT GATE.

BUT THANKS TO GATEWAY...

"...THOSE KILLERS ARE GONNA GET A *BIG SURPRISE.*"

HUH?

UP HIGH! UP--

SHZAARK!!!

GYAAARRRGHH!

#$%&!

SQUEEEEE!

WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?!

MUTANT-HATING SHOCK TROOPS-- *HEAVILY ARMORED.*

NO NEED TO BE GENTLE.

SNIKT

KKKK

BUT, YOU KNOW...

...DON'T DO THAT THING YOU DO.

OF COURSE. WOULDN'T WANT TO MAIM ONE OF THESE DEGENERATES. IF IT WOULD MAKE YOU *SAD.*

THANK YOU. WHAT NOW?

NOW WE *WAIT.*

WHAT?!

I'M GETTING TIRED OF BEING TOLD TO WAIT! MARY JANE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN MY LIFE AND YOU WANT ME TO *WAIT?!*

NOT JUST ME.

HER TOO.

WHAT?

MOIRA HAS WATSON'S BODY, BUT SHE CAN'T KEEP HER FROM *THINKING*...

SO WITH THE CUCKOOS' HELP, WE HAD A LITTLE TALK...

I CAN SEND A TAIL AFTER YOU.

YOU FIND OUT WHERE MOIRA'S BODY IS, WE CAN STOP HER FOR GOOD. BUT IT'S DANGEROUS--

IF WE CAN STOP HER...THEN THAT'S WHAT WE DO.

SH-SHE'S LEADING YOU TO MOIRA?

THEN WHAT ARE WE DOING *HERE*?!

GIVING HER TIME...AND MAKING SURE YOU'VE STILL GOT A STEADY HAND.

I'VE... *HEARD THINGS.*

beep beep

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME. I'M GOOD.

TIME TO PROVE IT.

GREYCROW'S GOT A LOCATION.

SAINTE-CHAPPELLE CATHEDRAL.

MY DEAR MARY JANE... WE'RE HERE.

SOON I'LL BE WHOLE AGAIN...

...AND YOU WILL HAVE YOUR *FREEDOM.*

I WONDER HOW I'LL MANAGE WITHOUT YOUR INCESSANT WHINING.

LOOKY THERE. JUST WHERE I LEFT IT.

IT'S A TIME FOR CELEBRATION, MS. WATSON. YOU'RE *FREE.*

FREE FROM THE WORRIES OF THIS MORTAL LIFE.

WHA--?

--ACK.

GAMP

THERE'S NO HURRY. YOU CAN *DIE* AS SLOWLY AS YOU WANT.

BOOM!

I SMELL A MUTANT.

A MUTANT AND GUNS.

GREYCROW...

KILL HIM!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

YOU TOLD ME THIS PLACE WAS SECURE!!!

I-IT IS, NOW. HE'S DEAD...

YOU NAIVE LITTLE #$%&!

HNNN...

SEE?!

KAFF KAFF!

MADE YA LOOK.

THWP

THWP

THWP

THWP

SMACK!

ZZT

ZZT

ZZT

I GOT YOU, MJ!

EAT E.M.P.!

!!ZARKKK!

AIEEEEEE!

GYARRGHH!

CLANK

HEY.

HEY.

HEY!

THE HAND!

OH. ON IT!

TK

TK

TK

TK

TK

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

TK

TK

TK

TK

TK

CLICK

YOU COULDN'T STOP A PIECE OF ME...

...IMAGINE THE BLOOD THERE WILL BE NOW THAT I AM WHOLE!

YOUR RESCUERS HAVE ONLY COME SO THAT YOU MAY--

--DIE TOGETHER!

HNNF!

SPLURCH

NO!

GOTCHA COVERED, KIDS.

LOGAN...

WE GOTTA USE THE DISK...

PETE--

SPIDER-MAN!

I SEE IT!

NO, YOU DON'T!

HOW ABOUT SECONDS ON THAT E.M.P.?

COME! I HAVE A USE FOR YE!

AAHHH!

SHEEEE

YOU'RE LUCKY I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT PLANS...

...UNLUCKY THAT THEY INVOLVE THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL YOU HOLD DEAR.

WONDERING WHERE MOIRA'S GOING? CHECK OUT **A.X.E.: JUDGMENT DAY!!!** --NICK

THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.

=KAFF=

I'M FINE, BY THE WAY.

NEW YORK CITY GATE.

WOLVERINE WILL BE OKAY. HE HEALS--

I KNOW.

OH. OKAY. GOOD.

YOU WANNA MAYBE GO GET SOME COFFEE AND TA--

YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT.

WHY? WHY CAN'T WE *JUST TALK?* LIKE OLD TIMES.

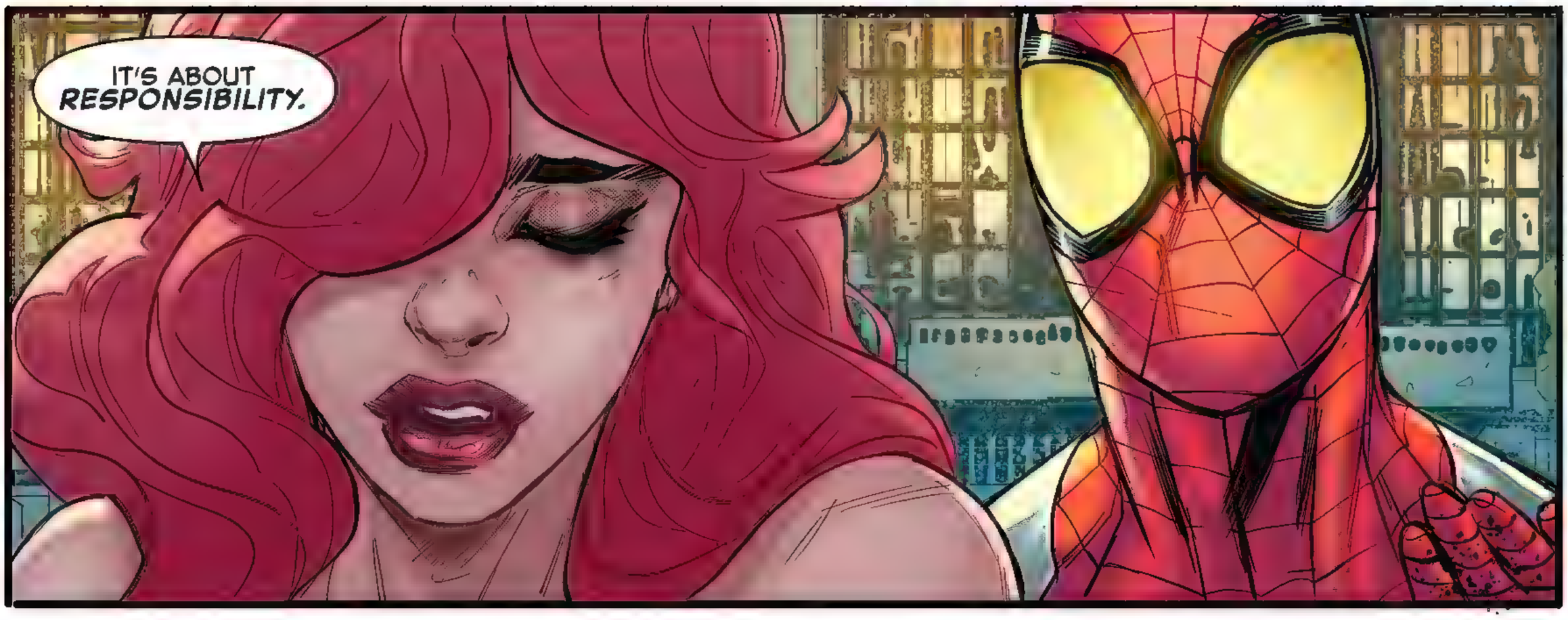
YOU *KNOW* WHY!

BECAUSE OF *PAUL?!*

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU LOVE HIM SO MUCH YOU CAN'T EVEN TALK TO ME?!

DAMMIT, PETER, THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOU!


IT'S ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY.

I THOUGHT YOU'D UNDERSTAND THAT.

The Eternals and the X-Men don't care about Peter's progress. They are at war and, despite the Avengers' efforts to cause a cease-fire, it's now Peter's — and the rest of the world's — problem. The ancient Celestial, the Progenitor, has been revived and has given all of humanity 24 hours to justify its existence.

Peter's judge is his long-dead girlfriend Gwen Stacy, who died at the hands of the Green Goblin.

EVENTS IN THIS ISSUE TAKE PLACE BEFORE A.X.E. JUDGMENT DAY #4.

WAIT A MINUTE. I THINK THAT THING'S ALIVE.

YOU'RE JUST
RD PERSON
CHEDULE
FOR.

I'D L
TO RE
YOU I R
THIS PA
SHOWI
ON T

WHAT DO
DO? HIT
I C
G

GWEN?

JR
JR
S. Hanna
Mayer

J KNOW
OU DID
R AUNT
Y?

--REPORTS TRICKLING IN OF A MASS-HYSTERIA EVENT--

--THE MESSAGE WAS A WARNING--

--CELESTIAL NAMED PROGENITOR, CLAIMING HUMANITY WILL BE JUDGED--

AND I QUOTE--"YOU HAVE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO JUSTIFY YOURSELF. YOU WILL BE JUDGED INDIVIDUALLY. YOU WILL BE JUDGED AS A COLLECTIVE. TODAY IS JUDGMENT DAY--"

--REPORTS OF LOOTING BUT ALSO RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS--

THAT'S OKAY, YOUNG MAN. I CAN GET ACROSS THE STREET MYSELF.

PLEASE LET ME HELP YOU! I HAVE TWO KIDS WHO DON'T EVEN KNOW MY NAME--I NEED THIS!

--THE QUESTION REMAINS: WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF THE 24 HOURS?

THE CELESTIAL SAID, "IF HUMANITY IS FOUND LACKING, THERE WILL BE NO TOMORROW." WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT MEANS?

THAT THERE WILL BE NO TOMORROW.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY? PEOPLE ARE TERRIBLE.

IT'S A GOOD THING WE JUST REPORT THE NEWS, EH, GAYLE? AN OBJECTIVELY POSITIVE OR AT WORST MORALLY NEUTRAL ENDEAVOR.

I...I DON'T KNOW. OUR STORIES SURE ARE VIOLENT, ON THE AVERAGE. AND IF WE ACCEPT ADVERTISING MONEY... AREN'T WE MONETIZING VIOLENCE?

MY GOD, GAYLE...DON'T SAY THAT OUT LOUD!

THAT'S IT FOR OUR PROGRAM, AND IF THERE ARE ANY SPACE GODS WATCHING, GAYLE WAS JUST JOKING!

NO, I SAW IT TOO--

I THINK EVERYBODY SAW IT.

NYC

THE ARCTIC.

SO WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION?

YOU'VE GOT BOOTS ON THE GROUND...

...IS THIS REAL?

WE WOKE A **CELESTIAL**, YES. AND ITS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WAS PUTTING HUMANITY UNDER JUDGMENT. **ALL** OF IT.

AND THAT MEANS **WHAT** EXACTLY?

THE PROGENITOR IS OMNIPRESENT. EVERYWHERE. **WATCHING. JUDGING.**

SOMETIMES HE APPEARS AS **HIMSELF**, SOMETIMES A PERSON FROM YOUR PAST. THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT.

OKAY, SO IF SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE DEAD SHOWS UP AND STARES AT ME IN A ***VERY*** JUDGMENTAL WAY, I'M PROBABLY NOT CRAZY.

IN THIS ***PARTICULAR*** INSTANCE, NO.

WHY DO YOU ASK?

OH...

...NO REASON.

LATER.

SO YOU DON'T SEE *ANYONE?* NOTHING?

NO, MAN. THERE'S NO ONE THERE.

YOU STILL DOWN TO HELP ME PICK OUT A TUX?

FOR THE WEDDING?

YOU WANT TO DO THAT *TODAY?!*

RANDY! WHAT ABOUT THE *CELESTIAL* JUDGING THE ENTIRE PLANET?

YEAH, JANICE DOESN'T REALLY *BELIEVE* IN ALL THAT. BUT SHE DOES BELIEVE IN MURDERING ME IF I DON'T FIND A TUX THAT GOES WITH HER DRESS.

MAN, I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S A REALLY WEIRD DAY.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? YOU PROMISED!

I DID PROMISE. AND I GUESS THAT'S IMPORTANT...

...ESPECIALLY TODAY.

YOU WERE RIGHT, PETEY, MY BOY. THIS IS THE ONE.

SO YOU WOKE UP THIS MORNING AND SAID, "YEAH, IT'S THE DAY OF JUDGMENT, BUT SOMEONE MIGHT NEED A TUX!"

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS *CELESTIAL'S* VALUES ARE.

MAYBE DOING AN HONEST DAY'S WORK IN BIZARRE CIRCUMSTANCES REALLY *FLOATS ITS BOAT.*

GREAT POINT. AND EITHER WAY, I APPRECIATE IT.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, PETER? HOW ARE YOU GONNA SPEND THE REST OF YOUR DAY?

I DON'T KNOW...

MAYBE I'LL SEE IF AUNT MAY NEEDS ANYTHING.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VISIT, AND FOR FIXING THE FAUCET. I TRIED, BUT YOU HAVE THE *MAGIC TOUCH.*

IT WAS NOTHING, MAY. AND IT WAS GREAT TO SEE YOU.

I HAVE A FEW MORE PEOPLE TO CHECK ON, IF YOU'RE OKAY.

BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU RIGHT BACK, PETER. AND I'M *FINE.* RUN ALONG...

YOU'RE SURE?

WITH ALL THIS NOISE ABOUT HUMANITY BEING JUDGED... WELL, IT CAN GET SCARY.

YES, I GUESS IT *COULD...*

...BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY BOTHER ME AT ALL.

PETER! MY BOY! THANKS FOR COMING!

I WAS THINKING TODAY WOULD BE A GREAT DAY TO *DEEPLY APOLOGIZE* FOR ALL THOSE NASTY, *NASTY* THINGS I SAID TO YOU OVER THE YEARS. IT WAS IN NO WAY AN INDICATOR OF MY MORAL WORTH AS A PERSON.

SO YOU HEARD ABOUT THE 24 HOURS OF JUDGMENT.

I SHOULD ALSO APOLOGIZE FOR ALL THAT SPIDER-SLAYER STUFF. IF I HAVEN'T. THAT WAS JUST... *INAPPROPRIATE.*

AND *THE SCORPION.* ALL THE ABUSES OF POWER AS MAYOR.

SORRY, SORRY, SORRY.

I APOLOGIZE BEFORE *GOD AND EVERYONE!* CELESTIAL GODS ESPECIALLY!

JONAH--

RING RING

I'VE GOTTA TAKE THAT!

RING RING

HELLO! *ROBBIE!* THANKS FOR RETURNING MY CALL. HEY, JUST LOOKING TO HAVE A CASUAL CONVERSATION AND *DEEPLY APOLOGIZE* FOR EVERYTHING BAD I'VE EVER DONE.

JONAH...

WELL, THERE WERE MANY YEARS WHERE YOU WERE GROSSLY UNDERPAID, I'LL JUST START THERE. THEN THERE WERE THE OUTBURSTS. *OOP,* I'VE GOT ANOTHER CALL. PROBABLY MY EX-WIFE. OR SON. LOOK, I'M WILLING TO APOLOGIZE TO ANYONE I'VE WRONGED IN THE LAST FIFTY YEARS, SO IF YOU THINK OF ANYONE--

JONAH!

WHAT?!

YOU'RE A GOOD GUY. YOU ALWAYS DID WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS RIGHT AT THE TIME EVEN IF YOU WENT ABOUT IT IN TERRIBLE WAYS.

AND FOR ALL THOSE TIMES "WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS RIGHT" *HURT ME?*

I FORGIVE YOU.

REALLY?

YEP.

TH-THANK YOU, PETER.

COULD YOU JUST SAY IT A LITTLE LOUDER? MAYBE *SHOUT IT* TOWARD THE *NORTH POLE?*

HE'S NOT COMING.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I STILL TRY...

BEN USED TO COME HERE TO THINK. I MEAN, I DID TOO.

ONE OF THE ***MANY*** THINGS WE HAD IN COMMON. YOU KNOW, HIM BEING MY CLONE, AND ALL.

I KNOW HE'S MISSING. PROBABLY ***WORSE.*** BUT I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT ONE DAY, I'LL SWING BY AND HE'LL JUST ***BE HERE.***

AND MAYBE I CAN HELP HIM.

WE SHOULD GO.

I'M WASTING TIME.

GLAD YOU SWUNG BY. SOME PEOPLE ARE TAKING THIS CELESTIAL-JUDGMENT THING BETTER THAN OTHERS.

ROCKET RACER HERE CERTAINLY FLIPPED HIS LID.

YOU HAD IT HANDLED. I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU.

OH YEAH?

WHAT'S UP?

JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW PROUD I AM...

...YOU KNOW...

...TO SHARE THIS JOB WITH YOU. THIS *NAME.*

OH. HEY...

YOU TOO, MAN.

YOU TOO.

WELP, I'M TURNING IN. ARE YOU GONNA JUST...I DON'T KNOW...

...STAND THERE?

OKAY.

SUIT YOURSELF.

I'LL JUST BE HERE...

SLEEPING LIKE A BABY.

WE'RE WORKING TODAY? ARE YOU SURE?

I KNOW THE TEST IS IMPORTANT...IT'S JUST...I'M FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER.

RIGHT. I THINK I MIGHT...

...I MIGHT HAVE A FEVER...

NO. NO, I'M NOT SERIOUS. I'M SORRY. THAT WAS A LITTLE WHITE LIE. WHICH IS A BAD THING I DO A LITTLE TOO OFTEN.

RIGHT. I'LL SEE YOU IN AN HOUR.

OKAY, THEN...

...GUESS YOU'RE GONNA SEE WHERE I WORK.

HEY, KAMALA. HOW'S IT LOOKING--

THE PROTOTYPE IS READY TO GO. AS SOON AS NOR--

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!

A-ARE YOU SURE WE'RE READY FOR...*THAT* GUY? MAYBE WE SHOULD RUN SOME MORE TESTS. AND... *HE* CAN COME BACK TOMORROW.

BUT...YOU SAID I COULD DECIDE WHEN IT WAS READY. BECAUSE YOU TRUSTED ME.

OH... YOU'RE RIGHT. I DID SAY THAT. AND I DO.

IF YOU SAY WE'RE READY, WE'RE READY.

THANKS. I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT. AND I APPRECIATE *YOU.*

THOUGHT I SHOULD SAY THAT...WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON.

OH. YEAH.

I APPRECIATE YOU, KAMALA. FOR REAL.

ALL RIGHT, THEN, TEAM...

...WHAT SAY WE GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD?

NORMAN?!

YES, PETER. DID YOU THINK I'D *STAY HOME* AFTER ASKING EVERYONE ELSE TO *WORK?*

THAT'S NOT HOW I TREAT MY *EMPLOYEES.*

Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE HERE. KAMALA AND I CAN HANDLE THIS.

NONSENSE. THIS PROJECT IS TOO IMPORTANT FOR ME TO--

NORMAN! I SAID LEAVE!

NOW!

O-OF COURSE.

IF YOU FEEL THIS STRONGLY THAT YOU'RE NOT READY. I UNDERSTAND.

I'LL BE IN MY OFFICE.

GWEN...

GWEN?

I CAN EXPLAIN...

WHO'S GWEN?

NO... DON'T GO!

STOP!

TOLD YOU HE WAS WEIRD.

...

YOU SAW ME BEING NICE TO HIM, RIGHT?

WAIT!

PLEASE...

I...I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET I'M WORKING FOR NORMAN. AND I UNDERSTAND...

BUT I ALSO...I KNOW YOU'RE NOT *GWEN.* NOT *REALLY.* I'D *FEEL IT* IF YOU WERE.

YOU'RE SOMETHING ELSE.

MAYBE MY MEMORIES OF HER? MAYBE THE CELESTIAL KNEW HOW I OFTEN ASK MYSELF WHAT GWEN WOULD THINK OF ME...

...AND HOW I'VE LIVED MY LIFE SINCE SHE DIED.

EITHER WAY... I WANT TO EXPLAIN MYSELF TO YOU--HER.

I LOST SOMEONE I LOVED A WHILE BACK. I WANTED TO DO EVERYTHING I COULD TO GET HER BACK.

NOT EVERYONE AGREED WITH MY TACTICS. IN FACT, *NO ONE* DID. I COULDN'T FIND ANYONE TO HELP.

ANYONE EXCEPT *NORMAN.*

HE HELPED ME. AND NO, IT DIDN'T WORK OUT THE WAY I WANTED, BUT HE *TRIED.*

AND NOW HE'S GOTTEN A CHANCE AT A FRESH START. AND HE'S *TRYING* TO BE A GOOD MAN.

THE WAY I SEE IT, IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP HIM.

IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP HIM FROM BECOMING THE MAN WHO KILLED YOU. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE I STILL LOVE YOU.

OH, WOW...

I SEE YOUR HEART, PETER PARKER. I SEE THAT IT IS FULL, OPEN, AND ALIVE.

I SEE IT SHINE SO BRIGHTLY IT BLINDS YOU, AND BAFFLES THE MIND OF MAN.

AND SO I JUDGE YOU...

...WORTHY.

AND SO RECEIVE MY GIFT!

ZZZARK

WHA... WHAT IS...?

PETER?

GWEN? I-IT'S *YOU.*

I CAN TELL.

WHERE HAVE I BEEN? I'VE BEEN *SOMEWHERE* FOR A LONG TIME.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, PETER? YOU'RE *OLDER.*

Y-YEAH, I AM...

GWEN... I'M SORRY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO YOU...

ME NEITHER...

EXCEPT...

I SURE HAVE *MISSED* YOU.

I SURE HAVE MISSED YOU TOO.

I'M LEAVING, PETER. HE SAYS HE JUST WANTED TO GIVE US A MOMENT...

...TO SEE THAT BEAUTIFUL HEART OF YOURS OPEN.

GWEN...

HUH.

WHAT A DAY.

G-GWEN?

H-HE WAS TALKING TO HER. SHE WAS REAL.

SHE WAS *REAL.*

STOP, NORMAN. PULL IT TOGETHER. YOU'RE FINE...

EVERYTHING IS *FINE.*

"And so
made hi
an *input*

DO
UNDERS

PETER. Y
A HAR
TO S

originally called
the Living Brain.

YORKTOWN.

PETER PARKER!

YES, WE DID HAVE THE BABY. A WHILE AGO.

...

THAT'S OKAY! I KNOW YOU GET BUSY...*BEING YOU.*

KIDS CHEM

KIDS CHEM

OH, WE GOT IT, YEAH. IT WASN'T ON THE REGISTRY, BUT WE SUSPECTED IT WAS FROM YOU.

NOW WE JUST NEED TO FIND A PLACE FOR IT UNTIL HE'S OLD ENOUGH...

...IN TEN TO TWELVE YEARS.

KIDS CHEM

KIDS CHEM

NED'S GREAT! FREELANCING AGAIN. CHASING A BIG STORY.

...

YEP! I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM THIS EXCITED SINCE HE *GOT BACK.** I'M PROUD OF HIM.

*NED WAS LONG THOUGHT DEAD BUT WAS SAVED BY HIS GOBLIN SERUM! --NL

PETER, IT WAS GREAT TO HEAR FROM YOU, BUT I'VE GOT A BOTTLE ON.

...

WINSTON! WINSTON LEEDS.

I KNOW. IT WAS NED'S GRANDFATHER'S NAME.

YOU TOO, PETER. GOOD NIGHT.

WHERE ARE YOU, NED LEEDS...?

WINSTON!

OH GOD...

I WON'T LET THEM HURT HIM.

N-NO...

NO.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

OSCORP.

THERE'S BEEN QUITE ENOUGH STALLING AROUND HERE.

IS THE ENGINE CREATING THRUST OR NOT?

YES. OF COURSE. RIGHT, PETER?

YES. OF COURSE--

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THAT ONE, KAMALA--

WE ABSOLUTELY HAVE THRUST.

THEORETICAL THRUST!

THEORETICAL?! ARE YOU TELLING ME THERE IS NO TRIAL TODAY?! I GAVE YOU WEEKS TO MAKE YOUR MODIFICATIONS.

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE! THIS IS...THIS IS--

MR. OSBORN?

ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.

IT WAS MY IDEA TO OVERCOMPRESS THE MICROWAVE GUIDE. I'LL TAKE THE HIT.

I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT. I WAS IN CHARGE.

GREAT. *LOVE* THAT. IT WAS NICE KNOWING YOU, PETER.

HEY.

MR. OSBORN, I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE...

...ALONG WITH MY INTERN, KAMALA.

HEY.

WAIT, WHO'S HE TALKING TO?

DID I *ASK* FOR A REPORT ON THE *LEGALITY* OF THE MATTER?!

N-NO, SIR.

OOH, LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S IN MORE TROUBLE THAN WE ARE.

SCORE.

WHERE'S HE GOING?

THAT WAS... WEIRD.

HE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE, RIGHT? KIND OF DISTANT? IRRITABLE?

I MEAN, *YEAH.* BUT IT'S *NORMAN OSBORN.* IF WE CAN KEEP THINGS TO "IRRITABLE," I THINK WE'RE WINNING.

EXIT

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.

I'M PACKING IT IN. I'LL BE IN EARLY TOMORROW FOR *ROUND TWO.*

WHAT? IT'S FOUR O'CLOCK!

IS THIS SOME KIND OF "WORK-LIFE BALANCE" THING?

I DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THAT TERM.

LET'S JUST SAY I'M *MOONLIGHTING.*

AND THE JOB IS *DO* OR *DIE.*

I'M GLAD YOU CALLED, PETER.

I NEEDED SOME FRESH AIR. BEEN COOPED UP TRYING TO CRACK A NEW BIOMETRIC SAFE THAT JUST CAME OUT.

UH, FOR THE *GREATER GOOD,* RIGHT?

OH, YEAH. OF COURSE.

SO, WHAT BRINGS US OUT TO DUMBO? NEED ME TO BREAK INTO SOMETHING?

YOU KNOW... FOR THE *GREATER GOOD.*

NOT THIS TIME.

I NEED TO TALK.

ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

YOU KNOW...

...WITH *US.*

OH.

DON'T TELL ME WE'RE UP HERE FOR THE VIEW.

I DON'T KNOW. *MAYBE.*

DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE THIS WINDY...

LOOK, I'LL GET TO THE POINT.

I CAN TELL WE'RE DOING *THAT THING* AGAIN.

THAT THING WHERE YOU PURSUE ME AND I PUSH YOU AWAY BECAUSE I'M SCARED--

AND YOU WANT TO NIP IT IN THE BUD.

REITERATE THAT WE ARE AND ALWAYS WILL BE *JUST FRIENDS?*

WHAT...? NO!

SORRY, CAN YOU--? IT'S SO WINDY...

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU OUT *FIRST* FOR ONCE.

REALLY?

YEAH. I MEAN, YOU'RE *FELICIA HARDY.* YOU CERTAINLY DON'T NEED TO BE CHASING *ME* AROUND.

CAN I... CAN I TAKE YOU TO DINNER?

HMMM...

I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

FELICIA.

WHAT? IT'S A *MAYBE.*

A *MAYBE?*

OKAY. A *PROBABLY.*

REGARDLESS, THANKS FOR TAKING THE INITIATIVE, PETER.

CONFIDENCE LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.

OH MY GOD.

THAT ACTUALLY WORKED?

I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA THROW UP.

I'M SHAKING. WHOLE BODY IS JELL-O.

HOW IS THIS SO HARD?!

I'D BETTER WALK HOME.

CAN'T BELIEVE I DID THAT. IN A GOOD WAY.

FEELS GOOD. LIKE MAYBE I CAN START MOVING ON.

101

SPEAKING OF MOVING ON... HAVEN'T SEEN THAT *COLLECTIONS AGENT* AROUND. WONDER WHAT *THAT'S* ABOUT?

FIND OUT WHAT THAT'S ALL ABOUT IN **ASM #14!** --PROPHET NICK

IF I HAVE ANY COURAGE LEFT OVER, I'LL CHECK MY MAILBOX. SEE IF THEY'RE STILL SENDING BILLS.

HELLO, PETER.

NO SPIDER-SENSE.

THAT VOICE.

NED LEEDS.

NOTHING CREEPY ABOUT THIS.

GOT A SEC?

SURE, NED. WHAT'S UP?

A LOT.
I'M CHASING A STORY.
THAT'S GREAT, MAN. BETTY TOLD ME YOU WERE REPORTING AGAIN.
SHE TOLD *ME* SOME THINGS TOO. LIKE THAT YOU'RE WORKING FOR OSBORN NOW.
OH. YEAH. IT'S A LONG STORY, OBVIOUSLY--
YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING TO ME. IT'S PERFECT. SEE, I'M WORKING ON SOMETHING THAT CAN BRING HIM DOWN...
...AND NOW I'VE GOT A MAN ON THE INSIDE.
OH, WELL... THAT'S NOT EXACTLY--
IT'S A GOOD JOB, YOU SEE. AND NORMAN'S COME A LONG WAY. LIKE I SAID, IT'S A LONG STORY--
THE POINT IS I WOULDN'T FEEL COMFORTABLE MESSING THAT UP.
A LONG WAY, HUH?
I KNOW YOU'RE STILL A NEWSMAN, PETER. IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD.
SO LET'S SEE HOW YOU FEEL AFTER SEEING THESE.

RODERICK KINGSLEY...

THAT'S RIGHT. THE *HOBGOBLIN.*

THE MAN WHO BRAINWASHED ME INTO BEING HIS PATSY. THE MAN WHO HAD ME *KILLED.*

TALKING TO YOUR BOSS.

NED, THIS IS... OKAY, YEAH. THIS LOOKS BAD.

THEN YOU'LL HELP ME? I NEED ACCESS TO OSBORN'S SERVERS.

OH, I DON'T KNOW... THAT'S A LOT, NED.

BETTY *TOLD* ME YOU'D CHANGED.

I'M SORRY--

DON'T BE. WANTED TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO WORK WITH ME. GET BACK IN THE GAME.

BUT IT'S FINE...

...I'LL HANDLE THIS MYSELF.

YEAH.

YOU AND ME BOTH.

NORMAN?

TEK

WE NEED TO TALK.

WE DO INDEED, PETER. THE NEW PROTOTYPE IS ALMOST READY.

THE TWEAKS YOU SUGGESTED ARE SHOWING IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS ALL DATA-SETS.

ARE THERE ANY COSMETIC CHANGES YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE BEFORE WE GET THIS INTO PAINT?

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE NEW SUIT.

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT *RODERICK KINGSLEY.*

I SEE.

I'D HOPED TO SPARE YOU SOME UGLINESS. YOU KNOW I APPRECIATE HOW HARD YOU'VE WORKED TO FORGIVE MY PAST.

RODERICK KINGSLEY HAS SHOWN LESS *ALACRITY* FOR THE TASK, I'M AFRAID.

SO THIS ISN'T A *TEAM-UP?*

QUITE THE *OPPOSITE.*

YOU SEE, IN MY *WILDER* DAYS, KINGSLEY APPROACHED ME WITH A DEAL. HE'D FALLEN AFOUL OF THE LAW AND OFFERED ME HIS VAST CORPORATE EMPIRE IF I'D HELP SECURE HIS FREEDOM. HE'D BEEN UNMASKED AS THE HOBGOBLIN AND HIS OPTIONS WERE LIMITED.

I REBUFFED HIS OFFER, BUT... LIKE I SAID, THESE WERE *WILDER* DAYS.

YOU STOLE HIS EMPIRE ANYWAY.

IT WAS ALL PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE, FROM A *LEGAL STANDPOINT.*

FROM EVERY OTHER STANDPOINT--AND CERTAINLY *RODERICK KINGSLEY'S*-- YES, I STOLE HIS EMPIRE.

AND NOW HE'S BACK, THREATENING VIOLENCE, BLACKMAIL, AND GENERAL RUIN IF I DON'T GIVE IT ALL BACK. WITH INTEREST. HE'S LEFT ME NO CHOICE.

NORMAN, VIOLENCE IS AGAINST EVERYTHING YOU'RE TRYING TO DO HERE.

IF YOU MOVE ON HIM, I CAN'T--

PETER, *PLEASE.*

I'VE HAD MY LAWYERS DRAW UP THE CONTRACTS TO RETURN KINGSLEY'S HOLDINGS. I'LL MEET WITH HIM, GIVE HIM EVERYTHING HE WANTS...

...AND ASK FOR HIS FORGIVENESS.

WOW.

I DID NOT EXPECT YOU TO SAY THAT.

BUT, NORMAN... KINGSLEY IS *DANGEROUS.*

YES. QUITE.

MOST *GOBLINS* ARE.

BUT WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?

LET ME COME WITH YOU! IN THE SUIT-- I'LL PROTECT YOU.

I WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.

ALL RIGHT, PETER. THE MEETING'S HAPPENING AT MY WAREHOUSE IN RED HOOK.

THURSDAY NIGHT.

I'LL BE THERE. AND IF KINGSLEY TRIES ANYTHING, *I'LL HANDLE HIM.*

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS STUFF ALONE, NORMAN. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

OF COURSE, PETER.

SEE YOU THURSDAY NIGHT.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

The Oscorp Warehouse in Red Hook.

NORMAN. SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.

RODERICK. I'M ALONE, AS REQUESTED.

I HOPE YOU BROUGHT MY STUFF.

THOUGH, IF YOU DIDN'T... WE CAN CERTAINLY MAKE THAT FUN TOO.

CAN'T WE, DIO?

WE CAN, MR. KINGSLEY.

NO NEED FOR ALL THAT. MY PEOPLE HAVE DIVESTED OSCORP OF YOUR FORMER EMPIRE AND SET UP A CASCADE OF SHELL COMPANIES TO RETURN IT TO YOUR HANDS WITH LITTLE FANFARE.

LOOK IT OVER. THEY DID GOOD WORK.

HMMM. YOU WERE A FINE STEWARD TO MY BABIES, OSBORN. THEY'RE ALL DOING WELL...

...EXCEPT FOR THE FASHION HOUSE, BUT WHO DIDN'T SEE *THAT* COMING?

ANYTHING ELSE?

THAT'S IT? YOU'RE JUST GIVING ME WHAT I WANT? I BROUGHT ALL THESE GUYS FOR *NOTHING?*

I'M AFRAID SO.

I WANT TO MOVE ON. I HOPE YOU CAN DO THE SAME.

SORRY, I'M A BIT LIKE THE DOG THAT CAUGHT THE CAR HERE. DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO FOLD SO EASY.

DECIDING IF I WALK AWAY OR SEE HOW MUCH #$%& YOU'LL EAT--

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

KINGSLEY... THAT SOUND.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

WHAT GOOD CAN COME OF THIS?!

YOU THINK I'M STUPID?

IT'S NOT *ME!*

I KNEW I COULDN'T TRUST YOU, OSBORN.

KA-BOOM!

IT'S ABOVE US! IT'S--

GARK!

SHUNK

BOOM!

YOU LEFT YOUR PAST TO FESTER IN DARKNESS.

TONIGHT, YOUR ACRID CROP COMES TO HARVEST...

...AND MADNESS RIDES THE NIGHT WIND!

YORKTOWN.

DON'T WORRY, LITTLE WINSTON...

...I JUST GAVE MOMMY A LITTLE SOMETHING TO HELP HER REST.

SHE WAS TIRED...

WE DID A LOT OF GOOD WORK HERE THIS EVENING.

"And so
made hi
an *input*

DO
UNDERS

originally called
the Living Brain.

THE OSCORP WAREHOUSE IN RED HOOK.

OVER HERE!

7378

NY*FD

2515

PDNY

WE GOT A SURVIVOR!

SIR, DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING?

Hnnnn...

WE GOT SOMEONE TOO!

OH MY GOD...

THAT'S NORMAN OSBORN.

BE CAREFUL... THAT OTHER MAN, HE'S--

"--DANGEROUS."

HEY!

GET OFF OF ME!

WHO TOOK A RUN AT YOU, MR. KINGSLEY?

WHAT HAPPENED?

THE HOBGOBLIN HAPPENED. SLAUGHTERED EVERYONE...

EVERYONE EXCEPT ME AND OSBORN.

HE'S GOT BURNS AND MULTIPLE LACERATIONS.

HOW'S THE OTHER ONE?

DON'T KNOW. HIS GUY POINTED A GUN AT ME.

#$%& HIM.

MOVE! COPS'LL HAVE BACKUP ON THE WAY. I'M NOT ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS!

YOU'VE GOT SOME NASTY BURNS, MR. OSBORN. I'M GONNA GIVE YOU A MIXTURE OF *SALINE* AND *MORPHINE*.

OH, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. I'VE GOT PLENTY OF LIQUIDS IN MY BLOOD.

MANY OF THEM *PROPRIETARY*.

OH. WELL, YOU KNOW...

IT'S PROTOCOL.

GO AHEAD, THEN. WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE GETTING IN *TROUBLE*.

WAKE ME UP WHEN WE GET TO THE HOSPITAL.

YOU'RE A LIAR.

YOU SAID YOU WERE MEETING KINGSLEY *TONIGHT.* NOT *LAST NIGHT.*

I THOUGHT I COULD HANDLE IT MYSELF.

THE DATA DOESN'T BEAR THAT OUT... LOOK AT YOU.

I'D RATHER NOT.

HOBGOBLIN DO THIS?

VERY MUCH SO. BUT IT WASN'T *KINGSLEY.* HE WAS AMBUSHED RIGHT ALONG WITH ME. HIS MEN WERE *SLAUGHTERED.*

I THOUGHT I MIGHT DIE TOO, BUT AFTER THE HOBGOBLIN BEAT ME TO A PULP, HE JUST...LEFT.

MAYBE HE WAS BORED. I DIDN'T PUT UP MUCH OF A FIGHT.

YOU'RE OUT OF PRACTICE. NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

WHO SAID I WAS *ASHAMED?* I DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE. THAT'S THAT.

YOU'RE TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY, AREN'T YOU?

THIS *RETIREMENT?*

YES. OF COURSE.

THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH. ANY ACT OF AGGRESSION COULD BE THE ONE THAT LEADS TO...*HIM.*

THEN I HAVE TO HANDLE THIS. FIND THE HOBGOBLIN... WHOEVER IT IS *THIS TIME.*

NED LEEDS HATES THAT PART OF HIS PAST, BUT I'LL HAVE TO LOOK INTO HIM.

HE APPROACHED ME A FEW NIGHTS AGO. WANTED HELP BREAKING INTO YOUR *SERVERS.*

HE SAID YOU WERE UP TO SOMETHING.

I'LL HAVE TO LOOK INTO *THAT,* TOO.

PETER. YOU CAN TRUST ME.

THE DATA DOESN'T BEAR *THAT* OUT EITHER. YOU *JUST* LIED TO ME.

POINT TAKEN.

LOOK, NORMAN...

IF NED IS MISTAKEN... IF YOU'RE CLEAN...

...I'LL START *TRYING* TO TRUST YOU. OKAY?

I'LL TAKE IT.

KNOCK KNOCK

HMM?

PETER?

BETTY, I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU. I REALLY NEED TO TALK TO NED. IS HE AROUND?

OH, ACTUALLY--YOU KNOW, HE'S BEEN WORKING THIS KINGSLEY STORY *REALLY HARD.* RUNNING ALL OVER TOWN. OUT A LOT.

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL *YOU* WHAT IT'S LIKE.

SO YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS?

WHAT? NO, IT'S NOT THAT. HE'S...

HE'S...

BETTY?

I WAS HAPPY FOR HIM AT FIRST. I'D NEVER SEEN HIM THIS *MOTIVATED.*

NORMAN OSBORN WAS WORKING WITH RODERICK KINGSLEY. IT WAS THE BIGGEST STORY *EITHER* OF US HAD TOUCHED. HE SAID IT COULD ***CHANGE OUR LIVES.***

BUT THE DETAILS KEPT GETTING ***WEIRDER.*** NORMAN HAD US UNDER SURVEILLANCE... OUR BABY FORMULA WAS TAINTED...

HE WAS ***CONVINCED*** OSBORN WANTED WINSTON. SOMETHING ABOUT GOBLIN SERUM IN HIS BLOOD.

HE...

WHATEVER IT IS, YOU CAN TELL ME.

I--I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE GOT IT. BUT SOMETIMES WHEN HE COMES HOME, HE'S...

...HE'S WEARING...

...HE'S WEARING *IT* AGAIN.

I NEED YOU TO TELL ME EXACTLY WHERE HE IS.

A SMALL OFFICE ACROSS TOWN. NED TRIED TO KEEP IT FROM HER, BUT BETTY'S SEEN THE INVOICES...

...NO ONE'S A BETTER REPORTER THAN BETTY.

I'M NOT ***POSITIVE*** I'M GONNA FIND A ***HOBGOBLIN*** WHEN I GET THERE, BUT I DO FEEL MORE PREPARED SHOWING UP IN A COSTUME DESIGNED BY ***NORMAN OSBORN.***

SUE ME.

PLACE LOOKS ABANDONED.

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, LEEDS?

OSBORN. IT ALL GOES BACK TO ***OSBORN.***

NED?

SPIDER-MAN! I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

THEY'RE ALL AFTER ME. AND OSBORN'S AT THE TOP!

TOP OF WHAT?

THEY WANT MY BABY! CAN'T YOU SEE?!

NO...OF COURSE NOT. OSBORN IS TOO SMART. I WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN NOTICED IF NOT FOR MY MACHINE!

WHAT MACHINE--?

NO. NO.

IT HELPS ME THINK! SO WE CAN MAKE OSBORN FACE HIS PAST...

NED, I DON'T KNOW WHO'S DOING THIS TO YOU, BUT THAT'S THE WINKLER DEVICE...

IT'S MAKING YOU THINK YOU'RE THE HOBGOBLIN.

REMEMBER HOBGOBLIN LIVES? --NL

NO...NO, YOU'RE TRYING TO CONFUSE ME.

IF I'M THE HOBGOBLIN...

...WHO'S HE?

BE

HAHAHAHA!

GAAAA!

CRACK

YOU'RE NOT A SPIDER!

YOU'RE A WORM ON A HOOK!

HOBGOBLIN. NOT LEEDS. NOT--

BE A GOOD BOY AND SQUIRM!

FOCUS. GET YOUR LEGS UP.

YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT LEEDS ALONE...

CRASH

"...HE'S ALWAYS BEEN MY PET!"

AND NOW I'LL *CHUM* THE *SKIES* WITH YOUR *CORPSE.*

GUY'S GOT SOME *FLORID* LANGUAGE, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT.

BUT I'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON *NOT DYING.*

GET A WEB ON SOMETHING SOLID--

UNG!

OR THAT.

FATAL FALL AMELIORATED.

A GLIDER?

IS THIS A JOKE?!

ZZZZZZK

CLEARLY NOT!

THANKS, BUG!

MR. OSBORN?

YOUR ASSISTANT DROPPED THIS OFF FOR YOU?

SHE SAID YOU WANTED TO GET SOME WORK DONE?

HMMM. I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE BREAK, ACTUALLY...BUT I CAN'T BLAME HER FOR ASSUMING.

SORRY, SO I SHOULD LEAVE THIS STUFF HERE OR TAKE IT BACK?

YOU CAN LEAVE IT.

DON'T WORK TOO HARD. YOU NEED YOUR REST.

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU.

I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE SOMETHING TO DO.

WHAT'S THIS?!

YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE A RUN AT ME?!

SURE. UNLESS YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE NEW MODEL.

ALL RIGHT, THEN!

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

ZZT

ZZT

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR!

IT MIGHT BE THE LAST THING YOU SEE!

WHAT?

ZZZASH

WHOOSH

GAAH!

TAWAP

AAAHHHHAAAAAA!

LET ME GUESS...A NONLETHAL DETERRENT?!

THEY DON'T EVEN TICKLE!

I'M SORRY MY WEAPONS DON'T DO *PERMANENT DAMAGE.*

GAAAAH!

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING YOU'LL FEEL TOMORROW...

--Hurk!

...EAT THIS!

SHE

TK
TK
TK
TK
TK
TK

SPIDER-SUIT V.3 WIP

TK
TK
TK
TK
TK
TK
TK

DING

SPIDER-SUIT v2.3 INCIDENT LOG IN PROGRESS.

HMMM?

CLICK

INCIDENT FEED: LIVE

WHO ARE YOU?!

GET UP!

HOW DOES IT FEEL? TO *HIDE* A MAN FROM HIS *SINS?*

SHUT UP!

WHO ARE YOU?!

ANSWER ME!

KNOWLEDGE IS EARNED, *WORM!* EARNED IN *ANGUISH* AND *BLOOD!*

MAYBE...

THOK

...BUT NOT *MINE!*

SRNCH

NOT THIS TIME.

THOK

OYAAH!

CRACK

GETTING TIRED?

ME TOO.

LET'S WRAP THIS UP.

KINGSLEY...

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE SURPRISED!

BUT YOU WERE WITH OSBORN WHEN THE HOBGOBLIN ATTACKED.

I WAS?

SPIDER-SENSE.

GOING CRAZY IN TEN DIRECTIONS AT ONCE.

ZZZT!

WAIT, NOT *TEN.*

KRAK

ELEVEN.

HNNN...

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A HARDER LOOK AT NED LEEDS.

IT WAS MY PLEASURE TO PUT HIM BACK WHERE HE BELONGED...

IN THE WINKLER DEVICE.

ONE HOBGOBLIN IS BACK...

...AND NED LEEDS MAKES TWO.

WAIT A MINUTE. I THINK THAT THING'S ALIVE.

YOU'RE J
D PERSC
CHEDUL
FOR.

TO
YO
THI
SH

WHAT DO
DO? HIT
I
G

J KNOW
OU DID
R AUNT
Y?

JR
JR2
S. Hanna
Mendez

NURSE!

WHAT IS IT?!

I NEED YOU TO CALL THE POLICE.

NOW!

MR. OSBORN, YOU'RE UPSET--

IF YOU EXPLAIN WHAT'S GOING ON, MAYBE I CAN--

SEND THE POLICE TO 75TH AND 193RD STREET IN QUEENS OR I WILL BUY THIS HOSPITAL AND FIRE YOU PERSONALLY!

YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND...

...MY EMPLOYEE IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.

IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHETHER THE HOBGOBLIN IS *NED LEEDS* OR *RODERICK KINGSLEY*...

...THE ANSWER IS "YES."

IT'S NOT A WHOLE LOT OF *FUN*, FRANKLY.

RODERICK USED THE WINKLER DEVICE ON NED AGAIN. CONVINCED HIM NORMAN WAS AFTER HIS BABY...

...CONVINCED HIM HE WAS HOBGOBLIN AGAIN.

THE QUESTION IS "WHY?"

AAAGHH!

SLASH!

AND ALSO: IS IT A GOOD IDEA TO TALK TO MYSELF AROUND SHARP, FLYING THINGS?!

OOF!

AHH!

UNG!

OUCH!

GAAAH!

BUG! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

P--SKR-- PETER? ARE-- SKSHH-- THERE?

NORMAN? CAN'T HEAR YOU. THE HELMET TOOK A HIT. THINK IT'S MESSING WITH THE SIGNAL!

YAAAA--

AND BUG'S HOMING CHIP!

SNATCH

AAAAAH!

NNNNGH.

SPIDER-MAN-- SSHHH-- YOU OKAY?

NOPE.

I CAN'T HEAR HIM!

MR. OSBORN, PLEASE SETTLE DOWN!

WE'VE CALLED THE POLICE. THERE'S NOTHING MORE YOU CAN DO!

YOU...

YOU...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.

OKAY, PETER. YOU GOT THIS.

THE GLIDER EVENS YOU UP WITH THESE GUYS.

THE WEBS GIVE YOU AN *EDGE.*

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

USE IT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE...

HHNNNNGH!

THROW THEM A CURVEBALL.

GAAAAHHH!!

LEEDS! THIS ISN'T YOU! YOU'RE BEING CONTROLLED!

I BELIEVE IN YOU, NE--

BELIEVE IN BLOOD!

GAAAK!

FURGH!

GRRSSK

AND PAIN!

AHHH!

OKAY, THEN--

HO

--WE'LL TALK AFTER YOU'VE HAD A NAP!

EMERGENCY MANEUVER.

WHA--?

BUG!

LETHAL IMPACT INCOMING.

INTERCEPTING--

SQUEEEE!

ZZZZZZZZASSSSH

BUG!

HA HA HA HA

BUG!

FALLING.

THIS COMPLICATES THINGS.

OR MAKES THEM SIMPLER.

SLICE

AAAAH!

SLICH

Hurk!

I'M SIMPLY GOING TO DIE.

oOF!

CRASH

SINCE... SINCE THIS MIGHT BE MY LAST CHANCE TO SAY IT, I'M *REALLY* NOT A HOBGOBLIN FAN.

NEVER HAVE BEEN.

KILL HIM.

FJMP

GAK!

ZZZ

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA

ZZZZZZZZZ

WAIT--

WWUUUUUUUUU

AAAA

EYES FLASHED.

CAN'T SEE...

CAN'T...

USE THE GLIDER.

YES.

SO THAT THE ONE WHO *SINNED* MAY LIVE AGAIN...

YOU MUST DIE!

GYAAAAAHHH!
VRRROOOOM
HUH?
EYES CLEARING UP JUST ENOUGH TO SEE...
N-NORMAN?
I DIDN'T WANT VIOLENCE.
HA HA HA HA...
WE DID!

AND NOW YOU'VE GOT IT.

LEEDS! RAIN HELL UPON THEM!

THOOM THOOM THOOM THOOM THOOM

THOSE STUPID *PUMPKIN BOMBS.*

I'VE GOT SOMETHING BETTER...

WHRR

...AND MUCH MORE ACCURATE!

THOOM

AIIEEEEEE!

I'VE GOT YOU, KINGSLEY!

TOGETHER, WE CAN PUNISH OSBORN FOR WHAT HE DID TO US!

YOU'RE AN IDIOT, NED.

OSBORN WAS NEVER AFTER YOUR FAMILY! I PUT THAT IN YOUR HEAD TO MAKE YOU USEFUL!

...AND NOW YOU HAVE A BETTER USE!

KRAKOOM!

AAAA

GOT YOU!

GAAH!

OOF!

IT'S OVER, LEEDS. YOU NEED HELP.

THE ONLY THING I NEED...

...IS MY HANDS AROUND YOUR THROAT!

STILL?

COME ON, MAN, THROW ME A BONE...

THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT.

CRACK

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!

NORMAN--

HEY!

CRACK!

NORMAN...

NORMAN!

HE'S NOT MOVING! HE'S OUT COLD, OKAY?!

YOU'VE GOT TO STOP! NOW!

OH. OH, YES.

O-OF COURSE.

LATER.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE'S NOT TALKING?!

OSBORN WILL REACH OUT THROUGH OUR LEGAL TEAM WHEN HE'S READY TO GIVE A STATEMENT.

#$%&!

WE ASSURE YOU IT IS BETTER IF THE NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OUR LEGAL TEAM STAY FRIENDLY.

I HOPE IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT WE'RE *VERY EXPENSIVE.*

YOU'RE FAST.

WE CAME AS SOON AS YOU ACTIVATED THE SUIT.

SPIDER-MAN?

GETTING VERY EXPENSIVE MEDICAL ATTENTION. ANONYMITY PROTOCOLS ARE BEING STRINGENTLY FOLLOWED, OF COURSE.

I GUESS I SHOULD THANK YOU. IF YOU HADN'T DROPPED OFF MY *COMPUTER,* SPIDER-MAN WOULD BE DEAD.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YOU BROUGHT MY COMPUTER TO ME IN THE HOSPITAL. SO I COULD CATCH UP ON WORK.

I'M SORRY, MR. OSBORN. THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE.

I INSTRUCTED *EVERYONE* ON STAFF TO LEAVE YOU BE...

NO ONE FROM OSCORP DROPPED OFF A COMPUTER.

DING DONG

DING DONG

PETER?

BETTY? I WANTED TO CHECK ON YOU. SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING?

I TALKED TO NORMAN. HE'S GOING TO GET NED THE BEST LAWYER IN TOWN.

WE'LL FIND KINGSLEY. HE WON'T GET AWAY WITH USING HIM AGAIN.

THAT'S GREAT, PETER...

THAT'S...

I'M SO SORRY, BETTY.

THEY'RE GOING TO THROW THE BOOK AT HIM!

HE DID IT TO US AGAIN! CAN'T YOU SEE?!

BETTY, NO. IT WAS RODERICK. AFTER THE AUTHORITIES EXAMINE THE DEVICE HE USED TO BRAINWASH NED, THIS WILL ALL BE OVER.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR?

SPIDER-MAN MUST HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN.

THE POLICE SEARCHED NED'S OFFICE...

"...THEY NEVER FOUND A DEVICE."

LOCATION UNKNOWN.

THIS WHAT YOU WANTED, BOSS?

THAT'S RIGHT. LEAVE ME.

NOW!

THEY HAVE LEEDS. THERE WON'T BE ANY USE FOR THIS NOW.

NONE THAT YOU'LL REMEMBER.

TURN YOUR MIND OFF NOW. IT'S IN MY HANDS.

YES.

TURN MIND OFF...YOUR HANDS...

GOOD BOY.

I NEEDED TWO OF YOU IN THE END, BUT WE SUCCEEDED.

OSBORN'S BACK ON THE ROAD TO BECOMING HIS *TRUE SELF.*

HIS *SINS* HAVE COME BACK TO HAUNT HIM.

WAIT A MINUTE. I THINK THAT THING'S ALIVE.

YOU'RE J
D PERSC
CHEDUL
FOR.

T
YO
THI
SH

WHAT DO
DO? HIT
I

THUD!!

JR
S. Hanna
Mendez

J KNOW
OU DID
R AUNT
Y?

SPRING

BEN?

I RAIDED ANOTHER BEYOND SAFE HOUSE, JANINE. I *TOLD* YOU THEY CAN'T HIDE FROM ME.

IT WAS FULL OF TECH. CRAZY STUFF. I MEAN, IT'S *ALL* CRAZY, BUT THIS GEAR IS SOME KIND OF KEY.

SO YOU'RE STILL PLANNING--

I MEAN, YOU STILL *WANT* TO...

HE TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME, AND I WANT IT BACK.

ALL OF IT.

WE NEED TO TALK. I WANT TO HELP YOU, BUT ALL OF THIS...WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH GETTING YOUR MEMORIES BACK?

WHERE DOES IT END?

WHERE DOES IT END? WHERE DID IT *BEGIN?*

I'VE LOST A LIFETIME. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS BEFORE I WOKE UP IN THE JACKAL'S LAB. THERE'S NOTHING, AND THEN I'M JUST *THERE.* AND EVERYTHING AFTER *THAT* IS *SCRAMBLED.* THE ONLY MEMORIES THAT SEEM TO PUNCH THROUGH ARE THE ONES CARRYING *PAIN.*

PEOPLE TELLING ME I'M NOT *REAL.* BEYOND MANIPULATING ME. ALL THE *DYING.* ALL THE LOSS. I DON'T REMEMBER MEETING YOU, BUT I REMEMBER ALL THE TIMES I *LOST* YOU. PAIN, PAIN, PAIN.

AND IN THAT PAIN...A MESSAGE. SOMETHING IS CALLING ME.

SOMETHING...

SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS EQUIPMENT!

BEYOND MADE A CLANDESTINE DEAL FOR AN OLD MILITARY SKUNKWORKS PROGRAM. PROJECT PURGATORY.

THEY WERE CLOSE TO MAKING IT WORK. I CAN GET IT OVER THE FINISH LINE... I JUST NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME!

SURE, BEN.

SURE.

REMEMBER **NEW MUTANTS VOL. 3 #9?** --'NQUISITIVE NICK

GRAND CENTRAL STATION.

YOU CAN BUY THOSE SIGNS ONLINE.

STILL... I DIDN'T THINK OUR EGGS WERE *THAT* BAD.

OKAY, I ADMIT WE WEREN'T VOTED "BEST BREAKFAST IN THE CITY."

OH. HA.

NO, JUST A LOT GOING ON.

ANYTHING YOU WANNA SHARE?

SORRY, THIS IS MY PLACE. I'M *LITERALLY* INVESTED IN YOU GETTING YOUR APPETITE BACK.

SO YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE *NICE GUYS,* HUH?

I LIKE TO THINK SO.

LET'S START WITH AN EASY ONE. YOU COMING OR GOING?

...

GOING. I JUST BOUGHT A TICKET.

WHERE TO?

AWAY FROM HERE. AWAY FROM *HIM.*

I SEE. SO IT'S OVER?

NO. NOT LIKE THAT.

I LOVE HIM. AND IF I LOOKED BACK OVER MY LIFE AND PICKED OUT ALL THE BRIGHT SPOTS, HE WAS THERE FOR MOST OF THEM. MAYBE *ALL* OF THEM.

JUST RECENTLY, HE SAVED ME FROM... A BAD PLACE. SHOWED ME A LIFE I NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE--

THEN WHY ARE YOU LEAVING?

BECAUSE IT'S GOING BAD AGAIN. IT *ALWAYS* GOES BAD.

AND WHEN MY LIFE WAS *ALL* BAD, I COULD TAKE IT. GO NUMB. BUT HE OPENS SOMETHING UP IN ME. I STARTED BELIEVING LIFE IS *GOOD.*

AND I DON'T WANNA BE WRONG AGAIN.

GERRY, THE... UH...*DISHWASHER* SAYS THEY'RE FIVE MINUTES AWAY.

THANKS, BARB.

DISHWASHER, HUH?

SLUMP

YOU RECOGNIZED ME.

JANINE GODBE. BROKE OUT OF PRISON A FEW MONTHS BACK.

THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD EVERYONE, YEAH.

YOU EVER BEEN TO PRISON, *GERRY?*

CAN'T SAY I HAVE. BUT YOU SEE, I NEVER KILLED ANYONE BEFORE. LEAST OF ALL MY OWN FA--

I HAVE.

AAAHHH!

THUNK

CRACK!

AIEEEEE!

GERRY?!

BEN?

JANINE?

I'M DONE TRYING.

THE WORLD DOESN'T WANT ME. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I'M TIRED OF ASKING.

IT USED TO SCARE ME, SO I MADE MYSELF GET OVER THE FEAR. BUT I HELD ON TO THE *HOPE*.

IT'S THE *HOPE* THAT'S *KILLING* ME.

BUT I'M DONE WITH ALL THAT.

MY FATHER TOLD ME I WAS LESS THAN *NOTHING*. AND WHEN I SHOWED HIM HE WAS *WRONG*, THEY *THREW ME IN A CAGE*.

THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME *OUT THERE*. YOU'RE THE ONLY THING I'VE GOT.

I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU GO. I'LL FOLLOW. IF SOMETHING'S CALLING YOU, WE'LL ANSWER IT TOGETHER.

IF WE HAVE TO BURN THE WHOLE WORLD DOWN TO MAKE YOU WHOLE...

...WE BURN IT DOWN.

I LOVE YOU, BEN.

I KNOW.

...

THAT'S FROM SOMETHING, RIGHT?

SUMMER

IT'S A BIG DAY. AN *IMPORTANT* DAY.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

BUT DEEP DOWN, YOU EXPECT HIM TO SWING OUT OF THE SKY AT THE LAST MINUTE AND STOP YOU.

HE NEVER DID LIKE IT WHEN YOU SHOWED TOO MUCH *INITIATIVE.*

BUT NO, HE'S GONE. OFF TO SAVE THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE WITH *NORMAN OSBORN.*

AND THEY SAY *YOU'RE UNHINGED.*

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SHOW UP.

PETER PARKER.

HA. NO. YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GUY.

DON'T TRY THAT WITH ME. I KNOW WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE, BUDDY.

THEN YOU'VE GOT ONE UP ON ME...

BIG NIKOS

LEFTERIS

STAVROS

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I SEE IN THE MIRROR THESE DAYS.

BEEN CALLING AROUND, MR. PARKER. ASKING WHERE YOU WERE HOLED UP. NO ONE KNEW.

YOU DIDN'T MAKE YOUR SWEET OLD AUNT *LIE* FOR YOU, DID YOU?

I DON'T HAVE AN AUNT.

NOT ANYMORE.

I'M LEAVING NOW.

WHERE ARE YOU GONNA BE?! WE WANT OUR MONEY, PARKER!

I'LL BE SURE TO TELL HIM.

DON'T *LOVE* THAT IT'S SOMEONE'S *SKIN.*

ACCORDING TO *BEYOND'S* MANIFEST, IT'S *DECADES OLD.*

WHOEVER IT BELONGS TO ISN'T USING IT ANYMORE.

AND IT'S THE *KEY* TO THIS THING'S *IGNITION.*

YOU SURE YOU JUST WANNA GO *MARCHING* IN THERE?

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE.

NO, BUT THE CLOSER I GET TO GOING...THE MORE *RIGHT* IT FEELS.

LIKE I'M GOING *HOME.*

THEN... THEN LET'S GET YOU HOME.

READY OR NOT...

SHUNK

...HERE I COME.

IMPOSTOR!
CLONE!
AN EMPTY HUSK!
AN UNREAL THING!
snap
KEEP GOING.
I'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE.
A NOTHING PERSON!
FROM A NOWHERE PLACE!
GENETIC DETRITUS!
HMM?

NOT A REAL BOY!

NEVER BE REAL!

WHEW!

MIND IF I GRAB SOME SHADE UNDER THIS SCARY-LOOKING TREE?

I'M KIND OF NEW HERE. GETTING THE LAY OF THE LAND.

UNHOLY FRAUD!

IMITATION GIRL!

IS THAT RIGHT?

HEY, IS IT ME OR ARE THE LOCALS KIND OF MEAN?

COUNTERFEIT SOUL!

OUCH. THAT ONE HIT BONE.

THERE'S NO HIDING FROM YOUR *DEMONS* HERE.

I LIKE IT.

IT KEEPS ME SHARP.

FORGOTTEN ONE!

YOUR SOUL IS ECHO!

YOUR LIFE IS VOID!

HMMM. MY DEMONS KIND OF SOUND LIKE YOUR DEMONS.

THAT THEY DO.

SHHHH. LOOK.

SNF

SNF

SNF

SNF

THEY'VE FOUND EACH OTHER.

THEY'RE NOT GONNA START SMOOCHING, ARE THEY?

OH NO. THEY'RE TOO SIMILAR, LIKE YOU SAID.

THE ONLY THING *FAMILIARITY* BREEDS IS... WELL, YOU'LL SEE.

GYAARRGHH!!!

AIEEEEEEEEEE!!!

GARF!

GARK!

THAT'LL KEEP 'EM QUIET.

YES. WE SEEM TO BRING EACH OTHER A MEASURE OF PEACE, DON'T WE?

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO MY KINGDOM-- I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T GET YOUR NAME.

BEN. BUT YOU CAN CALL ME *CHASM*.

CHASM?

YEAH, ON ACCOUNT OF THAT BEING ALL THAT'S LEFT INSIDE ME. YOU'RE A CLONE TOO, RIGHT? DEMONS KIND OF LET THAT ONE OUT OF THE BAG.

CRNCH

THE GUY I WAS CLONED FROM GOT TIRED OF *SHARING*, I GUESS. STOLE HIS MEMORIES BACK FROM ME.

BEEN PRETTY LOST EVER SINCE. UNTIL I FELT THIS PLACE PULLING ON ME.

HMMM. LIMBO HAS TAKEN ON THE FLAVOR OF ITS QUEEN, CALLING OTHERS WHO KNOW MY PAIN...

...CALLING YOU HOME.

IT'S NO COINCIDENCE YOU'VE FOUND YOUR WAY HERE, CHASM.

LET THIS BE A SANCTUARY FOR THOSE LIKE US.

NOW COME.

LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO FOR EACH OTHER.

YOU'RE BOTH WELCOME TO STAY AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE, OF COURSE.

AND I'VE QUITE ENJOYED OUR MISCHIEVOUS EXCURSIONS TO EARTH.

SEE 2022 FCBD ISSUE. --NO-CHARGE NICK

BUT THE SCALE OF WHAT YOU'RE ASKING... AN ATTACK ON NEW YORK IS COMPLICATED FOR ME. POLITICALLY.

THAT'S WHY I SHOULD LEAD IT.

LET ME AND YOUR ARMY PROVIDE COVER...SO YOU CAN GET WHAT *YOU* WANT.

I'M THE ***QUEEN OF LIMBO.*** WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY WANT?

THE SAME THING I DO.

BOTH OUR LIVES WERE STOLEN. BOTH OF US KNOW WHERE THE ***THIEVES*** LIVE.

BEN, DON'T MAKE ME REGRET WHISPERING MY DEEPEST HURTS IN YOUR EAR.

YOU KNOW ***EXACTLY*** WHAT YOU WANT. AND YOU KNOW ***EXACTLY*** WHERE IT IS. I'LL HELP YOU GET IT.

AS LONG AS I OFFER ***MY*** HELP IN RETURN.

HMMM. LIMBO WAS ***GIVEN*** TO ME. I WOULD BE ***BITING*** THE HAND THAT ***FED*** ME.

BUT WHO'S TO SAY THIS KINGDOM WAS GIVEN TO ME OUT OF KINDNESS?

I'VE BEEN GIVEN LITTLE REASON TO TRUST THE GENEROSITY OF OTHERS.

YOU'RE UPSET.

IF YOU THINK I HAVE DESIGNS ON YOUR BELOVED, YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.

I'VE PLAYED THAT GAME BEFORE AND LOST BADLY.

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY.

IT'D TAKE MORE THAN A FANCY CASTLE TO COME BETWEEN ME AND BEN.

WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THINGS YOU COULDN'T IMAGINE.

I TRULY DOUBT THAT.

BUT IF *ENVY* DOESN'T *REDDEN* YOUR FACE, WHAT DOES?

HELPLESSNESS.

BEN'S TALKING ABOUT GOING TO WAR, AND I'LL BE *DAMNED* IF I DON'T GO WITH HIM.

BUT I FEEL SO *NAKED* IN THIS PLACE. NO WEAPONS. NO POWERS. WHEN THE TIME COMES...

...HOW WILL I BE ANYTHING BUT A *LIABILITY?*

OH, JANINE.

I *KNEW* I LIKED YOU.

LIKE ME, YOU *DESPISE* IT. BEING AT THE MERCY OF FORCES BEYOND YOUR CONTROL.

YOU'D RATHER SHAPE YOUR OWN DESTINY...

...THAN PLAY THE PERPETUAL VICTIM.

WH-WHAT'S THAT?

A *TRIBUTE* I COLLECTED FROM ITS OWNER, THE *BASTARD-DEMON S'YM.*

HE USED IT TO SET ME FREE ONCE. I CAN DO THE SAME FOR YOU...BUT YOU MUST *ASK* ME TO.

I--I DON'T KNOW.

DON'T YOU WANT TO BE *ALL OF YOU?*

WHAT YOU *WERE.* WHAT YOU *ARE.* WHAT YOU *DREAM OF BECOMING.* ALL OF IT TOGETHER, LIKE A *DREAM,* TERRIBLE IN ITS POWER.

BUT YOU MUST ASK FOR IT.

I'M DONE SITTING ON THE SIDELINES.

DO IT.

BULLY FOR YOU.

THUNK

HAGGGGGGGGS

I SEE YOU, ELIZABETH TYNE.

I SEE YOU, JANINE GODBE.

I SEE YOU, SARAH PORTER.

I SEE YOU, MARY BAILEY.

THEY MADE YOU WEAR MANY MASKS, AND YOU CHOSE NONE OF THEM.

ENOUGH OF THAT.

BALAKAI-AI-EEE-YAH!

FOR NOW YOU CHOOSE!

A MASK TO CURSE THEM!

HUNNNGGGG!

A MASK TO BLEED THEM!

WHA- WHAT IS THIS?

A MASK TO SPLINTER BONE!

IF THEY INSIST ON SEEING A MONSTER, YOU WILL BECOME A MONSTER.

BUT THE CHOICE WILL BE YOURS.

AND ENDLESS.

THIS IS YOUR GIFT...

...HALLOWS' EVE.

WINTER

IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN NOW. BUT THAT'S OKAY.

YOU THINK YOU LIKE THE SNOW.

MAYBE.

YOU CAN'T REMEMBER, TO BE HONEST.

BUT YOU WANTED TO SEE HOW YOUR *LIFE* WAS BEING *SPENT*. BY THE ONE WHO TOOK IT.

ONE LAST TIME.

BEFORE YOU *TAKE IT BACK.*

IT'S TIME TO PAY, PETER.

I WAS THINKING THE *SAME THING.*

YOU KNOW, IF YOU TALKED TO EVERYONE THAT KNOWS YOU--

--AND BELIEVE ME, I *HAVE*--

--YOU'D THINK YOU'RE A *GOOD* GUY WHO'S FALLEN ON HARD TIMES. BUT WE KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE, DON'T WE? WE KNOW, DEEP DOWN, YOU'RE JUST A *DEADBEAT.*

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A FAKE, PETER PARKER?

DID YOU JUST CALL ME A *FAKE PETER PARKER?*

STOP ACTING STUPID! I KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE!

IF YOU DON'T WANT THE WHOLE WORLD TO KNOW YOU BETTER--

HURK

MY NAME...

...IS BEN.

BEN...

...SOMETHING.

...

ANYWAY.

BAM

--GARK--

BAM

--GURGLE

BAM

HUFF HUFF

GREAT WAY TO END THE DAY.

GAR...

OOH, THAT REMINDS ME...

BAM

...I'D LIKE TO OFFER YOU AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY.

HMMM.

THIS LOOKS VERY NICE.

BUT LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING. OUR EXISTENCE PROVES THAT, I SUPPOSE.

WHICH IS WHY THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR MUST BE *TESTED. BITTEN.*

WHICH IS ALL TO SAY... *I HOPE YOUR FRIEND IS HUNGRY.*

HE CAN EAT.

GUH!

HI, DEAR.

HELLO, GUS. YOU'RE NO *STRANGER* DOWN HERE, DID YOU KNOW THAT? SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR *ATTIC* AND ALL THE *SPECIAL TOOLS* THERE.

I DIDN'T-- HOW DID YOU--?

YOU'RE SCARED, AREN'T YOU, YOU NAUGHTY, *NAUGHTY* BOY?

Y-YES.

I HAVE SOMETHING TO MAKE IT ALL BETTER.

THIS IS THE *FRUIT* OF THE *TREE OF EXQUISITE LIBERATION.*

EAT IT, AND YOU WILL BE FREE.

I CAN GO HOME?

YOU CAN GO... *FREE.*

O-OKAY.

CRUNCH

GUH.

GAAAAAAAHHHHH...

THERE YOU ARE. BECOME UNTETHERED FROM THE MEAT OF YOU.

YOUR SOUL IS... FREE.

THP

THAT'S HIM, THEN?

YES. TO INHALE THIS WOULD BE TO KNOW ALL OF HIM.

PERHAPS I'LL ALLOW MYSELF JUST A TASTE.

OH, THIS WAS AN EVIL... EVIL MAN.

SNIF

THIS IS HOW I BECOME WHOLE. YOU FIGURED IT OUT.

THANK YOU, MADELYNE.

THAT ISN'T NECESSARY...

I NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BITE INTO THE *FRUIT* THAT WAS *HANDED* TO ME.

TO TEST IF I WAS GIVEN *LIMBO* TO *RULE*, OR TO SIMPLY *HIDE AWAY* AND NOT BOTHER *THE ONES WHO MATTER.*

YOU WILL HAVE YOUR ARMY, BEN. BY DECREE OF THE QUEEN OF LIMBO. THOSE WHO QUESTION MY AUTHORITY MAY TAKE IT UP WITH *ME.*

ACCEPTED. AS TRIBUTE, HALLOWS' EVE WILL ENSURE THAT YOU RECEIVE YOUR *TREASURE* FROM ABOVE...

...AND I WON'T REST UNTIL MY PREY HAS TASTED LIMBO'S FRUIT.

I WILL TAKE *ALL OF HIM...*

...BECAUSE PETER PARKER'S SOUL BELONGS TO *ME.*

NEXT: DARK WEB!

Patrick Gleason & Alejandro Sánchez
#11 MIRACLEMAN VARIANT

Carlos Gómez & Morry Hollowell
#11 VARIANT

Daryl Mandryk
#13 BEYOND AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VARIANT

Ryan Stegman, Tim Townsend & Frank Martin #13 X-TREME MARVEL VARIANT

Gabriele Dell'Otto
#12 MIRACLEMAN VARIANT

Tom Reilly
#12 VARIANT

Francesco Mobili & Romulo Fajardo Jr.
#13 LOCAL COMIC SHOP DAY VARIANT

John Staub
#14 BEYOND AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VARIANT

Kyle Hotz & Dan Brown

#14 DARK WEB VARIANT

Alex Maleev

#14 VARIANT

Ed McGuinness

#14 DESIGN VARIANT

Ed McGuinness & Marcio Menyz

#14 HALLOWS' EVE VARIANT

"Has the entire package of action, intrigue and compelling twists." – AIPT

PREPARE TO HAVE YOUR HEART BROKEN ALL OVER AGAIN!

AS THE MOMENTOUS EVENTS OF A.X.E. REVERBERATE across the Marvel Universe, it's time for Spider-Man to face judgment – and we all know which moment in his history is going to weigh heavily on the proceedings. If Peter can somehow pick himself up, he'll have earned a nice quiet life, right? Nope – because the Hobgoblin is lurking in the shadows! But who's beneath the cowl this time? If you know anything about the Hobgoblin, you know that you know nothing about the Hobgoblin! Plus: It's time for Spidey to don his Sunday best, because he's off to the Hellfire Gala! But something is about to happen at the hottest party on Krakoa that sends Spider-Man and Wolverine on a dangerous mission all over creation!

COLLECTING ***AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (2022) #9-14*** – BY ZEB WELLS, JOHN ROMITA JR., PATRICK GLEASON, NICK DRAGOTTA, KYLE HOTZ, MICHAEL DOWLING, TERRY DODSON, RYAN STEGMAN, SCOTT HANNA, RACHEL DODSON, JP MAYER, MARCIO MENYZ, DAN BROWN, MATT HOLLINGSWORTH AND RICHARD ISANOVE.

T

MARVEL

Jack.T.Ripper

BLOODY MARVELOUS!